

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OTTAWA 01888 172044Z

63

ACTION EB-11

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R 172015Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3742

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, CA

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: PRECLEARANCE-- PROPOSED JULY 16 MEETING

REF: STATE 125987

1. AT MEETING WITH TCO ON JUNE 14, SEAL (MOT) DID NOT ADD SIGNIFICANTLY TO HIS POINTS OF JUNE 11 REGARDING POLITICAL IMPORTANCE OF RAPID ESTABLISHMENT PRECLEARANCE AT WESTERN POINTS. HE INDICATED HE HAD RECEIVED A DELEGATION FROM EDMONTON PREVIOUS DAY WHO STRONGLY ASSERTED THEIR WISHES AND HE HAD ASSURED THEM OF MAXIMUM BACKING FROM MOT. SEVERAL TIMES SEAL REPEATED HIS WISH FOR A MEETING WITH ORTMAN ABOUT JULY 16 IN OTTAWA AS A PREPARATORY SESSION FOR A FULL BLOWN REVIEW MEETING IN FALL. HE INDICATED THAT HE FULLY APPRECIATED DIFFICULTIES USG MIGHT HAVE IN ORGANIZING A FULL INTERAGENCY TEAM FOR A SUMMER MEETING AND THUS WOULD BE CONTENT WITH SEEING ORTMAN ALONE.

2. WITH RESPECT TO THREE WESTERN POINTS WHERE QUICK ESTABLISHMENT OF PRECLEARANCE IS DESIRED, SEAL MADE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. DATA--HE DOES NOT UNDERSTAND WHAT IS REQUIRED FOR A DETERMINATION, OTHER THAN THAT THERE WAS AN UNDER-

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PAGE 02 OTTAWA 01888 172044Z

STANDING AMONG THE NEGOTIATORS THAT ONE DAILY FLIGHT OF

DC-9 SIZE WOULD BE MINIMUM TRAFFIC FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF A FACILITY. ALL THESE POINTS HAVE, OR WILL HAVE, TRAFFIC IN EXCESS OF THAT MINIMUM.

B. CALGARY--NORTHWEST AND HUGHES AIR WEST OPPOSE USE OF INTERIM FACILITY. HOWEVER, MOT IS PREPARED TO MAKE A DEAL WHEREBY ALL PRECLEARANCE FACILITY COSTS FOR "PERMANENT STANDARD REQUIREMENTS" IN CONNECTION WITH NEW TERMINAL WILL BE A CHARGE ON GOC IF THESE CARRIERS WILL AGREE TO USE THE INTERIM FACILITY.

C. EDMONTON--ON CONFIDENTIAL BASIS HE INDICATED THAT AIR CANADA WILL BE AWARDED HOUSTON ROUTE AND WILL BE PREPARED TO SHARE COSTS OF FACILITY WHICH COULD BE OPERATIVE WITHIN FIVE MONTHS FROM DATE OF ANNOUNCEMENT THAT ROUTE HAS BEEN AWARDED. AWARD WILL BE ANNOUNCED, HE STATED, RIGHT AFTER JULY 8 ELECTION.

D. VICTORIA--THIS REQUEST INVOLVES FERRY SERVICES AS WELL AS AIRPORT AND HE WILL GET DATA REGARDING NUMBER OF DAILY MARINE PASSENGERS INVOLVED. STATUS OF MOT DETAILED FACILITY PLANS FOR VICTORIA TO BE ASCERTAINED.

3. SEAL ALSO INDICATED NECESSITY OF PRECLEARANCE BEING ESTABLISHED SIMULTANEOUSLY AT BOTH CALGARY AND EDMONTON FOR BOTH "POLITICAL" AND OPERATIONAL REASONS. FORMER RELATE TO RIVALRIES BETWEEN TWO ALBERTA ENTITIES AND DESIRABILITY OF SHOWING NO PREFERENCE BETWEEN THEM. LATTER RELATE TO NATURE OF ALASKA-LOWER-48 AIR SERVICES WHICH WILL INVOLVE CANADIAN STOPS AND NEED FOR TRANSIT LOUNGES UNDER US CUSTOMS CONTROL AT BOTH POINTS SO THAT PASSENGERS ARE ON A TRULY DOMESTIC JOURNEY.

4. COMMENT: EMBASSY IS AWARE OF COMPLEX BUDGETARY AND ADMINISTRATIVE CONSIDERATIONS THAT UNDERLIE DECISIONS BY USG AGENCIES TO ESTABLISH PRECLEARANCE AS WELL AS OPTION OF CARRIERS AS TO WHETHER AND WHEN THEY WANT IT ESTABLISHED AT PARTICULAR PLACES. CONSEQUENTLY, WE ARE MAKING NO RECOMMENDATION AT THIS TIME AS TO WHETHER USG SHOULD ATTEMPT TO MOVE ON RUSHED TIMETABLE THAT SEAL IS URGING. AS A GENERAL OBSERVATION, HOWEVER, WE NOTE THAT MOT IS UNDER SEVERE PRESSURES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 OTTAWA 01888 172044Z

TO UPGRADE TRANSPORT FACILITIES IN WEST. EXPANDED PRECLEARANCE THERE WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH GOC EFFORTS AND WE EXPECT THESE EFFORTS TO CONTINUE.

5. RE SEAL'S DESIRE FOR JULY VISIT BY ORTMAN, EMBASSY WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION TO SUCH VISIT IF ORTMAN CONSIDERS IT NECESSARY AND DESIRABLE. IN ABSENCE OF VISIT, HOWEVER, TCO WILL CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN DIALOGUE

WITH SEAL AND OTHER GOC OFFICIALS AND WILL BE IN GOOD
POSITION TO ACT AS GO-BETWEEN UNTIL SUCH TIME AS FULL
BLOWN REVIEW MEETING CAN TAKE PLACE.

6. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS CANADIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON
WILL BE MAKING REPRESENTATIONS TO DEPARTMENT ON THIS
ISSUE.

7. SUBSEQUENT MESSAGE WILL DEAL WITH CLARIFICATION
REQUESTED PARA 2 REFTEL.
PORTER

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